Upgrading TV Stations

813. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many TV transmissions are poor and some of these stations require upgrading;

(b) whether Government have assured to upgrade certain TV stations; and

(c) if so, what is the progress in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c) All the 531 TV transmitting centres of varying radiating powers in the country are reported to be functioning satisfactorily and are providing TV service within their respective coverage areas subject to local terrain conditions. Out of these transmitting Centres, the radiating power of 16 transmitters is being augmented at present for the purpose of extension of TV service. Major equipment for 13 such stations have been procured. As per present indications, 8 nos. of such transmitters are expected to be upgraded by March, 1993. Upgradation of the remaining 8 stations depends on completion of construction of buildings/towers and supply of equipment. It is also envisaged to augment the existing radiating powers of 33 transmitters in a phased manner depending upon the availability of adequate resources for the purpose and inter-se priorities.

T. V. Station at Vijayawada

814. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of INFORMA- ources for the purpose and *inter-se* pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foundation stone was laid for construction of T. V. studio at Vijayawada more than two years back;

(b) if so, the reasons for not starting construction work as yet; and

(c) what steps have been taken to take up the same and to complete it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action was held up pending completion of a review of the schemes for expansion of TV studio facilities in the country.

(c) Land has already been acquired at Vijayawada and orders for the supply of equipment involving long delivery schedules placed on the manufacturers.

Privatisation of the Metro Channel on Doordarshan

815. SHRMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state what decision has been taken by Government about the proposal for privatisation of the metro channel on Doordarshan to encourage private entrepreneurs in to introduce healthy competition in the area of electronic media?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): The Government has decided to offer time slots to private producers on the four metro channels of Doordarshan.

Demand for total decontrol of Newsprint

816. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the